

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

March 4, 1970
7:00 P.M.FIRE MARSHAL BUILDING
1622 Festival Beach Road

The meeting was called to order with Mayor LaRue presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Atkison, Gage, Janes, Johnson, MacCorkle, Price,
Mayor LaRue
Absent: None

Mayor LaRue stated that this was a called Special Meeting for the purpose of calling an election to authorize the issuance of revenue-supported bonds and general obligation bonds of the City of Austin, and taking such action as necessary in connection therewith.

Mr. Guerrero, representing the East First Neighborhood Center, directed a series of questions to the Council covering various items in the bond issue. Those items were included in the following:

Health Department

Two mobile health units were proposed out of CIP funds, not bond funds, at \$25,000 each, to be used City-wide, both day and night. Larger units would be purchased than the existing unit. The funding did not include staff.

Hospital

A standby generator was proposed at about \$50,000 for emergency use at the hospital. There was some discussion regarding the new hospital and staffing of it.

Fire Department

Four new stations were proposed: southeast Austin (Montopolis area), southwest, northwest and generally north. There was no fire station in Montopolis at present, but was served by the Airport fire station. Each station cost about \$200,000 to build, plus some equipment, and cost \$100,000 annually to operate.

Police and Courts

Expansion of the existing police and courts building was planned to give the Police Department adequate space and to speed up the trial process.

Public Works

Mr. Reuben Rountree listed the streets to be paved in East Austin under the bond issue and through the voluntary paving program.

Sidewalks

The City Manager was recommending to the Council that a flat fee, such as \$1.00 or \$1.25 per foot, be charged for sidewalks so that the owner would know in advance what the charge would be. The City would pay the difference.

Railroad Crossing

Ten to twelve railroad crossings were already scheduled and others were scheduled within the next five years. Plans had already been drawn for the crossing on Interregional Highway near Hancock Center.

Drainage

Existing drainage way improvements under the bond issue in the Capital Improvements Program totaled \$190,000 with \$40,000 being spent in East Austin. \$25,000 was proposed for the Montopolis area.

Service Yards

An East end service yard was proposed at a cost of \$800,000 to be built east of the City in the Townview area (about 175 acres). Two other facilities were planned, one to the north and one to the south of the City.

Parks and Recreation

\$200,000 would be spent for new neighborhood playgrounds, to be built adjacent to new elementary schools. It was planned to open up six to eight new ones within the next five years. \$140,000 would be spent to rehabilitate existing playgrounds, with \$30,000 being spent in East Austin.

Decker Lake

\$200,000 would be spent on development of Decker Lake. It was anticipated that some funds would be coming from the private sector to develop the lake area further.

Pan American Center

\$15,000 was proposed to build restrooms and for work on an athletic field.

10 Major Park Additions

\$500,000 was proposed to build an additional golf course, to be located at Decker Lake. The new course would take some of the load off the Morris Williams Course.

Indoor-Outdoor Pool or Tennis Center

Only one of the items, possibly the covering of Ramsey Pool would be done at this time. \$5,000 was budgeted for the item.

Softball

Mr. Beverly Sheffield stated that a softball field complex was being considered for the Walnut Creek area which would include at least four diamonds.

Library

A library facility for the 10th Ward area was proposed at a cost of \$100,000. The facility would be an outlet for books and a place where the bookmobiles could come to pick up books to service the surrounding areas.

Convention Center/Sports Arena

Up to \$14 million was proposed for a convention center/sports arena, which would provide employment for more members of the East Austin community. The Municipal Auditorium would still be used for smaller conventions and meetings.

Park Site

Mr. Gutierrez asked about a park which was supposed to be built in the Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Project. The City Manager stated that the City was trying to find a better location in the area for the park because the proposed location was not very accessible. An 11-acre City-owned tract at Cumberland and South Fifth was being considered as a park site. There were no plans to extend Gillis Park.

Mrs. Janes H. Means, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, spoke regarding Givens Park located at East 12th Street down by Webberville Road and Oak Springs Drive. She was concerned that the \$175,000 budgeted for six parks would not be sufficient to build a proposed multipurpose center at Givens Park.

Mr. Dick Brown addressed the Council to speak in favor of the total bond issue. Mr. C. T. Uselton spoke in favor of the bond issue, including the convention center.

RECESSED MEETING

After some general discussion among the Council regarding the convention center, the Council recessed until 8:55 A.M., March 5, 1970.

APPROVED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk